India's Demand for the Abolutionary Veto Power in the Security Council

30. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian representative at the recent UN General Assembly's meet pleaded for the abolition of the Veto Power hitherto enjoyed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council, to make the functioning of the Council more democratic;

(b) Whether he also demanded to increase the temporary membership of the security council to make it more representative in character; and

(c) if so, what consensus emerged on the demand as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The leader of the Indian delegation in his speech to the UN General Assembly called for democratisation of the Security Council and expansion of its membership including permanent as well as non-permanent members category. The issue will be discussed further by the General Assembly's Working Group on "Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council". No consensus has emerged on the scope and nature of such enlargement.

US Secretary's Statement on Kashmir

31. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention had been drawn to the report published in the Indian Express on 14th October, 1994, quoting informal press briefing of Ms. Robin Raphel, the US Assistant Secretary of State for Asia, during her visit to Bombay that US Administration was not convinced that elections in Jammu and Kashmir could be fair given the ground realities there;

(b) if so, whether Government have since sought any clarification about the ground realities referred to by her; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The US Embassy in Delhi clarified subsequently that US Assistant Secretary Robin Raphel had referred to problems that had existed in the past and had not meant to question the political process in the future. In a Press Guidance issued on October 18, 1994 by the State Department, US Government welcomed Government of India's attempts to establish a political basis for reduction in violence in Kashmir.

(c) It was pointed out to the US side that the remarks attributed to US Assistant Secretary Raphel in the press were not entirely consistent with what she said in the course of official discussions which took place during her visit to Delhi. It has been emphasized to the US that Government of India remain fully committed to restore normalcy and move towards elections in J&K and that the process would be undertaken in accordance with the Constitution of India.

Conditions Imposed by Pakistan

32. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan made any conditions for any discussions on Kashmir prior to the visit of the Scretary of the Ministry;

(b) if so, what are the conditions and the reaction of Government thereto;